

SIX FLAGS NEW ENGLAND	
SUBJECT: FALL PROTECTION INSPECTION & MAINTENANCE PROGRAM	SAFETY REFERENCE MANUAL
SECTION: 15	
EFFECTIVE: January 2016	SUPERSEDES: ALL PREVIOUS
CFR #: 29 CFR 1926.500 – <i>Subpart M</i>	

15.1 PURPOSE

This program establishes uniform guidelines to be followed to ensure that fall protection equipment is capable of withstanding its sole purpose.

15.2 POLICY

Safety harnesses and lanyards shall be visually inspected before each use by the wearer. A thorough inspection by a trained inspector will be performed on an Annual basis. More frequent inspections may occur depending upon the extent of use and environment in which the equipment is used. The life of lanyards and safety harnesses can be greatly affected by factors such as wear, exposure to chemicals, ultra-violet degradation, storage conditions, etc. These factors must be taken into consideration when determining the frequency of inspection. Any questions regarding this policy should be directed to SIX FLAGS New England Safety Department.

15.3 GENERAL

While the inspection process is being followed, it is recommended that harnesses be removed from service based upon the manufacturers recommendations on life span of harnesses, lanyards, and body belts. Safety belts are only permitted for work positioning and movement where there is little risk of falling. Safety belts are not permitted for use in personal fall arrest systems and shall not be worn in man basket, aerial lift or any application where the worker is 6 ft or more above ground and the body harness is the primary safety device.

15.4 TRAINING

Each user of fall protection equipment will be trained to conduct a visual inspection of each part of the equipment, including the webbing harness, buckles, D-rings, lanyards, anchor points, etc. Training will include what to look for and who to notify immediately with a problem. Users must be informed that they are required to conduct these visual inspections at least once daily and that any indication of tearing, rubbing, weather corrosion, dry rot, damage, cuts, pinches, etc., will be sufficient cause to have the equipment immediately removed from service, tagged, and destroyed.

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15.5 FALL PROTECTION

Employees shall use safety harnesses and lanyards when climbing or working at heights over 6 feet Construction 4 Feet General Industry where no platform or railing exists.

Fixed ladders without a cage shall have a safety harnesses attachment slide if over 20 feet.

Lifelines, safety harnesses, and lanyards shall be used for employee safeguarding. Any lifeline, safety harness, or lanyard actually subjected to in-service loading, as distinguished from static load testing shall be immediately removed from service and shall not be used again for employee safeguarding.

Lifelines shall be secured above the point of operation to anchorage or structural member capable of supporting a minimum weight of 5,000 pounds.

Lifelines used in areas where the lifeline may be subjected to cutting or abrasion, shall be a minimum of 7/8 inch wire core manila rope. For all other lifeline application, a minimum of 3/4 inch manila or equivalent, with a minimum breaking strength of 5,000 pounds shall be used.

Safety harness lanyards shall be a minimum of 1/2 inch nylon, or equivalent, with a maximum length to provide for a fall of no greater than 6 feet. The rope shall have a nominal breaking strength of 5,000 pounds.

All safety harness and lanyard hardware shall be drop forged or pressed steel, cadmium plated in accordance with Type 1, Class B plating specified in Federal Specification ~P-4 16. Surface shall be smooth and free of sharp edges.

All safety harness and lanyard hardware, except rivets, shall be capable of withstanding a tensile loading of 5,000 pounds without cracking, breaking, or taking a permanent deformation. Any worn or damaged belts or lanyards shall be turned in to Risk Management. If you are uncomfortable with the appearance of the equipment and question its integrity, do not use it and notify Risk Management so that it can be tested or replaced.

15.6 IDENTIFICATION

All fall protection equipment shall be marked for identification at the time of purchase. A tag should be attached with the date inspected and the next inspection due date. The attached "Fall Protection Inventory Sheet" and the "Fall Protection Quarterly Inspection

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Form" should be completed and returned to the Safety Department following each quarterly inspection.

15.7 SAFETY HARNESS INSPECTION

Beginning at one end, holding the body side of the harness toward you, grasp the harness with your hands approximately 8 inches apart. Bend the harness in an inverted "U." The surface tension resulting will make damaged fibers or cuts easier to see. Do this a small section at a time, over the entire harness. Inspect for frayed or broken strands. Broken webbing strands generally appear as tufts on the webbing surface. Any broken, cut, or burned stitches will be readily seen.

Special attention should be given to the attachment of buckles and D-rings to webbing. Note any unusual wear, frayed or cut fibers, or distortion of the buckles or D-rings. Buckle tongues should be free of distortion and should overlap the buckle frame and move freely back and forth in their socket. The tongue or billet of the harness receives heavy wear from repeated buckling and unbuckling. Inspect for loose, distorted or broken grommets. Rivets should be tight and immovable with the fingers.

15.8 LANYARD INSPECTION

When inspecting lanyards, begin at one end and work to the opposite end. Slowly rotate the lanyard so that the entire circumference is checked.

- A. STEEL LANYARDS: While rotating the steel lanyard, watch for cut, frayed areas, burns, kinks, or unusual wearing patterns on the wire. Broken strands will separate from the body of the lanyard.
- B. WEBBING LANYARDS: While bending webbing over a pipe, observe each side of the webbed lanyard. This will reveal any cuts or breaks. Swelling, discoloration, cracks, or charring are obvious signs of chemical or heat damage.
- C. ROPE LANYARDS: Rotate the rope lanyard while inspecting from end to end to identify any fuzzy, worn, broken, or cut fibers. A weakened area from extreme loads will appear as a noticeable change from the original.
- D. SNAP HOOKS: Snap hook latching mechanisms must be inspected carefully for corrosion, dirt, damage, or abuse. Damaged hooks almost always indicate lack of proper use. Snap hooks that become ineffective because of these problems must be destroyed. Only snap hooks that operate in an "AS NEW" condition can be used.

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15.9 CLEANING THE EQUIPMENT

Wipe off all surface dirt from the harness with a sponge dampened in plain water. Squeeze the sponge dry and dip the sponge in a mild solution of water and commercial soap and detergent. Work up a lather with a vigorous back and forth motion. Wipe the harness dry with a clean cloth and hang freely to dry. Do not place near excessive heat.

Basic care of the harness and lanyards will prolong the life of the unit and will contribute toward the performance of its vital safety function. Proper storage and maintenance after use are as important as cleaning the equipment of dirt, corrosives, or contaminants. Storage areas should be clean, dry, and free of exposure to vapors or corrosive elements.

15.10 RESTRICTIONS

Safety harnesses, belts, and lanyards, are to be used only for associate fall protection and for absolutely no other use. Once used to arrest a free fall, regardless of the distance, the fall protection equipment involved must be immediately removed from service, tagged, and destroyed.

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FALL PROTECTION QUARTERLY INVENTORY SHEET
_____ QUARTER

AREA: _____

Completed by: _____

Date: _____

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FALL PROTECTION QUARTERLY INSPECTION FORM

QUARTER

Completed by: _____ Date: _____

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